



The Messenger

A Word from our MMS Principal-Bob Price

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Spring Break. It is good to refresh ourselves after a season of gloomy weather, colds, and flu. Hopefully everyone has been sufficiently rejuvenated for the work that lies ahead. We are approaching TAKS testing which will occur at the end of April. The 7th grade has already completed the Writing portion. The Texas Education Agency has released final reports on last years testing. Our school accountability rating remains "Exemplary". The agency has added some new categories of recognition called Gold Performance Acknowledgments, and they are given for attendance rates above 96% and for "Commended" ratings in each tested area greater than 20% for all students tested. Memorial Middle School has received Gold Performance Acknowledgment for Attendance and in all academic areas tested: Reading, Mathematics, Writing, and Social Studies. Our students and teachers are to be commended for their

hard work and dedication. This accomplishment is unequalled by any other secondary school in the district.

I would also like to commend our students, staff, and parents for the tremendous support that all have given to our efforts to raise money for victims of the tsunami disaster. Due to the efforts of our National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, the MMS faculty, and our PTA, Memorial has sent a check to the Save the Children fund for \$9,721.20 We set very high academic expectations for our students, and we are very proud of their achievements in that arena. We should also take great pride in the character of our MMS community. When called upon to help those in need, our students, staff, and parents always respond with overwhelming support.

There is no state rating for giving and service to others, but I believe the Memorial MS community is outstanding in this category, also.

Message From PTA President—Karen Crawford

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for 2005-06!! Please thank these super volunteers for agreeing to share their time and talents with us, and consider accepting a position on the board to help them next year. The officers are: President - Jana Dundas, 1st VP Programs - Carolyn Jenkins, 2nd VP Membership - Suzie Davis, 3rd VP Directory - Jean Tomlinson, Secretary - Sheri Lathrop, Treasurer - Laura Riddle. We know they will do a terrific job!

I hope Spring Break offered fun

and relaxation for all of you. This marks the countdown to the end of the year . . . but there are a lot of great PTA events still to come!

I encourage everyone to participate in the Run for the Arts event on April 30. **Laura Riddle** and **Liane Phillips** have all the details (see the article inside this issue). Your participation directly impacts the proceeds that will benefit our schools and your children! **Debra Aitken** and **Paula Davis** have done a fabulous job

..Continued on page 2

Memorial Middle School
PTA Newsletter

April 2005

12550 Vindon,
Houston Texas 77024
713-365-5400

Highlights:

- ☉ Grade Level Honor Rolls
- ☉ Basketball WrapUp
- ☉ Pre-AP Art
- ☉ Write a Check Update
- ☉ 8th Party News
- ☉ Dates, Dates and more Dates!

Inside this issue:

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... More From Karen

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organizing our Cultural Arts program. Because of their hard work, your children will enjoy some very entertaining events on campus. The 8th Grade Party will be held on May 7 and is sure to be a special send-off for our graduating class. Many thanks to **Mary Roberts** and **Julie Silverman** and their dedicated committees for all of their hard work in planning this awesome event. For more details, please don't hesitate to contact Mary or Julie.

Other PTA events scheduled include Teacher

Appreciation Luncheons, International Club Luncheons, Cultural Arts presentations and Grade Level Peer Group Meetings. Please see the calendar inside for more information.

Through the joint effort of students, faculty and parents, close to \$10,000 has been raised for Tsunami Relief. Thanks to all of you, a check will be presented to the "Save the Children Fund". We have so much to be proud about at MMS!!

Have a great spring and see you at school!!

6th Grade Counselor's Report Card

I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break and came back to school relaxed and ready to finish their 6th grade year! Congratulations to all students who made the regular and distinguished honor rolls. Keep up the hard work!

All course selection sheets were due on March 4th. If you have any questions, please call or send me an e-mail at carkerd@springbranchisd.com. We will be sending home course verification sheets in May. These are not schedules; they are only a list of the classes that your

child has requested for their 7th grade year. All verification sheets will be signed and turned in to their activity teacher. If a correction needs to be made, you may indicate the change on the verification form.

Please be sure and have your child check out the Eagle's Nest website at www.mmseaglesnest.com. It is supported by the Safety Organization for Schools and the MMS student council.

Diana Carker, 6th grade Counselor

Anissa Myers, 6th grade Principal

6th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll (All A's)—Forth Six Weeks

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Acosta, Andrea | Geran Savadkoohi, Ateen | Klingen, Mary | Pena, Jeffrey |
| Alexander, Anne | Good, Myles | Koehn, Rachel | Powell, Kendall |
| Avasia, Arman | Grace, Rebecca | Kottwitz, Christy | Rebentisch, Aubrey |
| Barazi, Ghaith | Hakone, Anzu | LaMay, Sophia | Riddle, Lauren |
| Bentele, Jackson | Hand, Lindsey | Leggett, Alexandra | Rommelmann, Sarah |
| Bond, Zoe | Heins, Marshall | Leung, Shuting | Rustico, Federica |
| Burman, Miles | Holcomb, Jacqueline | Lund, Grant | Sachs, Sarah |
| Caton, Ryley | Hong, Sabrina | Lynn, Eric | Schneider, Alexandra |
| Chen, Yifan | Hu, Gene | Ma, Xiping | Sun, Erin |
| Cho, Samuel | Hudson, Chase | Mai, Claire | Tendall, Ellen |
| Christiansen, Zoe | Ibrahim, Nader | Marquette, Pierce | Valach, Alison |
| Curran, Bradley | Jerez, Javier | Marucci, Gina | Vasquez, Erika |
| Demiano, Abigail | Jerez, Monica | McMurtry, Molly | Wahl, Kathleen |
| deMoya, Kelly | Jones, Christina | Moreman, Sara | Whitmire, Ryan |
| Dennis, Tess | Kang, Joonwu | Mundy, Thomas | Wilkinson, Thomas |
| Djuvik, Kimberly | Kelly, Michael | Nettles, James | Williams, Allison |
| Dye, James | Kim, Su | Nikkel, Jonathan | Wyatt, Richard |
| Faith, Andrew | King, Peter | Palughi, Kristen | Yoo, Jee |
| Frey, Brandon | Kitterman, Sarah | Parker, Cassandra | |
| Furman, Jack | | | |
| Gaw, Christophe | | | |
| Gee, David | | | |
| Gentry, Brooke | | | |

6th Grade Regular Honor Roll—Forth Six Weeks

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Abiassi, Anthony | Glidden, Emily | Mauger, Matthew | Rochna, Gregory |
| An, Byung Hyun | Guthrie, Dylan | McConkey, Gregory | Roland, Matthew |
| Baassiri, Dina | Halliday, Nicole | Meador, Diane | Rucker, Bryan |
| Baassiri, Rima | Hart, Jackson | Meador, Morgan | Ryou, Gil Hyun |
| Bang, Hyun | Heisch, David | Mesgarpouran, Armin | Scheffler, Nathan |
| Bass, Maureen | Henkel, Sarah | Meyer, Betsy | Schiller, Stephanie |
| Baumgartner, Lana | Hepler, Katherine | Mohle, Olivia | Selzman, Jonathan |
| Beckham, Caroline | Herrera, Ana Paulina | Molson-Park, Erica | Simpson, Brice |
| Bettencourt, Henry | Hickerson, Jordan | Moody, Rachel | Smith, Hayden |
| Boatwright, Shelby | Hill, Nicola | Moore, Trenten | Snelling, John |
| Braun, Maryanna | Hollywood, Clare | Nelson, John | Stagg, Sarah |
| Brooks, Jonathan | Howard, Griffin | Newton, Abby | Stewart, Madeline |
| Bryndzia, Oleh | Hurley, Charles | Oso, Theresa | Temple, Alexandra |
| Calderon, Miki | Janes, Benjamin | Ostrowski, Danika | Tendall, Laura |
| Carr, Jeffrey | Jenkins, Kyle | Othold, Emily | Tormey, Samuel |
| Cho, Danny | Jerez, Michelle | Owen, William | Trapnell, Kristen |
| Clayton, Stephen | Jones, Garrett | Panah, Kevin | Troutner, Sarah |
| Clayton, Travis | Josey, Emily | Patel, Kaushal | Uno, Erika |
| Cobb, Kristin | Khairandish, Yasmine | Patterson, Clint | Verschuren, Karl |
| Crump, Lela | Kim, Jenna | Phillips, Connor | Weinstein, Natalie |
| Dailey, Ann | Kruger, Jared | Pichon, Marielle | Weitzel, Catherine |
| Davis, Lauren | Kruger, Shane | Pipitone, Kelsey | Wellen, Erica |
| Dinwoodie, Andrew | Kuni, Kelly | Price, Alexandra | Wike, Katherine |
| Douglass, Elizabeth | Laguarta, Marshall | Pyndus, Michael | Wohlfort, Laura |
| Frank, Sterett | Laguarta, Ross | Rabenaldt, Brian | Wong, Briana |
| Gentry, John | Little, Rebecca | Reichle, Danialle | Yauw, Adriana |
| Ghani, Cydney | Littman, Eva | Reilly, Patrick | Yauw, Katherine |
| Gibson, Kayla | Marnitz, Zachary | Riddle, Analise | Zander, Courtney |
| Glendinning, Caroline | Mather, Hope | Robinson, Taylor | |

New for 2004-2005 School Year—Pre-AP Art

Memorial Middle School is now offering your son or daughter the opportunity to be considered for enrollment in the Pre-AP Art program.

The program requires a two-year commitment from the student to learn and perform on the Art One high school level.

Upon completion of the program at the middle school level, the student will receive the required high school fine arts credit.

In addition, this program prepares the student for the AP program in high school.

7th Grade Principal and Counselor

I think the month of March should be the month of "Thank You's"! There are a lot of "thank you's" to be made this six weeks. Thank you, 7th grade honor roll recipients! Your hard work is an example for all. Thanks to all 7th graders for their hard work on the Writing TAKS. We know it will pay off. Thank you, students and parents, for turning in your Course Selection Sheets on time. Course Verifications will go out the first week in May. Thanks to all of the parents who attended the last Peer Group Meeting. It was a packed house, and a packed meeting! Thank you, George Youngblood for educating parents about drug and alcohol use among middle

schoolers. And yes, George has agreed to speak to all 7th grade students! Thank you, Safety Organization for Schools, for launching our new student website; www.mmseaglesnest.com. Ask your student if they have visited the site. Thank you parents for having great kids and take a minute to thank your son/daughter for being so GREAT!

Have a great fifth six weeks and let me know if I can help in any way.

Katy Smith, 7th grade Counselor

Mark Hemphill, 7th grade Assistant Principal

7th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll (All A's)—Forth Six Weeks

Bourgeois, Jeffrey
Brickhouse, Emily
Bryan, Alexis
Cosnahan, Isabel
Cragg, Matthew
Curran, Danielle
Danna, Bernard
Elmore, William
Ginsburg, Yael
Greenhill, Taylor
Harris, Kirstie
Hays, Joseph

Hong, Seong Jong
Kim, Simmon
Kirchhofer, Bennett
Lee, Seong-Soo
Luck, Mary
McCloskey, Shannon
McDonough, Margaret
Meng, Fanyu
Mocharla, Michael
Moreland, Lindsay
Muhoberac, Elise
Rogers, Ashleigh

Sarvi, Venus
Sharp, Misha
Simmons, Kristen
Suchman, Alexander
Tendall, Anne
Thorne-Thosen, Christine
Tran, Matthew
Verschuren, Chloe
Waddell, Madeline
Watkins Caroline
Wright, Natalie

7th Grade Regular Honor Roll—Third Six Weeks

Alexander, Caleb
Anderson, Katie
Archer, Stephen
Bard, Theodore
Bauman, Claire
Beckwith, Emma
Belleville, Kyle
Bellis, Hilarie
Berwanger, Orion
Bett, Rachel
Bone, Christopher

Brandt, Matthew
Brown, Gatewood
Bruck, Bella
Burge, Richard
Byth, Hallie
Cowan, Christie
Crawford, Rachel
Croley, Aaron
Dunn, Hannah
Evans, Eilise
Fickert, Kristin

Gonzalez, Aranza
Goodman, Kelly
Goss, Victoria
Gremmel, Courtney
Guldner, Owen
Gupta, Atul
Haley, Benjamin
Herzberg, Jennifer
Hickman, Abigail
Hogan, Eva
Holcomb, Kristin

Jernigan, Emily
Johnson, Emma
Jones, Cameron
Joo, Michael
Jung, Esther
Kato, SandorKleiderer,
Sarah
Kotch, Devon
Landon, Marianne
Lathrop, Kelli

Continued on page 5...

7th Grade Regular Honor Roll—Forth Six Weeks

.Continued from page 4

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Lee, Susan | Murray, Laura | Schindler, Katherine | Walker, Harrison |
| Liesse, Elizabeth | Orellana, Renan | Sexton, Nienke | Weeks, Taylor |
| Linderman, Shannon | Ostrofsky, Tracy | Shillings, Melbourn | Weir, Rachel |
| Linville, Rebecca | Palmer, Claire | Soudjani, Sam | Whitby, Claire |
| Milazzo, Andrew | Pence, Erin | Thorne, Gayle | Yancy, Hannah |
| Miller, Taylor | Roeder, Madeline | Tomlinson, Kelli | Yancy, Sarah |
| Moore, Joshua | Purvis, Rebecca | Toole, Kathryn | Zepeda, Rina |
| Moses, Ali | Saidi, Anoosh | Touchstone, Ann | Zou, Dianjun |
| | Scavone Ann Marie | Wagner, Catherine | |

8th Grade Principal and Counselor

Hope you all had a wonderful and restful Spring Break! 8th grade has had a busy 6 weeks, the students have begun preparing for 9th grade and have met with the counselors from Memorial and Stratford and selected their courses for next year. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to attend the information sessions at the high schools. If you would like to test for the Gifted and Talented program, please pick up and application in the main office and turn in by March 18th. The GT testing will be on Thursday, March 31st. Math TAKS testing will be on April 19th, Reading TAKS will be on April 20th and 8th grade Social Studies TAKS test will be on April 21st. Congratulations on all of the students who made the honor rolls, your perseverance is to be commended! Way to go!

I will be out on maternity leave starting on March 30th, please contact Lisa Weir or the counselor's secretary Demetria Brandiburg if you need assistance.

Alison Butler, 8th grade Counselor

Lisa Weir, 8th grade Principal

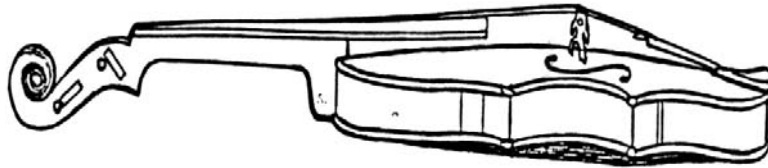
8th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll (All A's)— Forth Six Weeks

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Aamir, Nida | Mogyorody, Maria |
| Abunasr-Shiraz, Michael | McDonough, Elizabeth |
| Ackerley, Eve | Moore, Mollie |
| Banon, Shawn | Osborne, Taylor |
| Carameros, Jared | Patel, Chirag |
| Caton, Kyle | Riddle, Alexander |
| Cho, Sarah | Rosen, Max |
| Cho, Soo Jin | Schmidt, Sondra |
| Chuchla, Robert | Stewart, Kayla |
| Freer, Anne | Sutton, Shelby |
| Han, Sangho | Thomas, Hailey |
| Herlin, Elizabeth | Topp, Patrick |
| Jeong, Jena | White, Kevin |
| Jones, Regan | Wohlfort, Lindsey |
| Koehn, Ryan | |

8th Grade Regular Honor Roll —Forth Six Weeks

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Abbassi, Tarek | Gross, Corey | Lee, Florence | Rothenberg, Natalie |
| Abiassi, Stephanie | Hamilton, John | Lim, Jieun | Schleicher, Hans |
| Acosta, Adriana | Harrison, Benjamin | Little, Caroline | Schmidt, Derek |
| Bae, June | Hatridge, Julia | Livingston, Megan | Siegel, Claire |
| Bauch, Philip | Hendrickson, Lillis | Madeley, Katherine | Silverman, Lexie |
| Bayley, Hunter | Hicks, Leanne | Martin, Kristen | Snelling, James |
| Bettencourt, Christina | Huang, Sherry | McBee, Brittany | Sykes, Kathryn |
| Burman, Dean | Janes, Allyson | Mehta, Mitra | Thigpen, Blake |
| Carl, Rebekah | Jenkins, Courtney | Nepute, Gianna | Utz, Marshall |
| Clifford, Sean | Kageyama, Ken | Noriega, Isabel | Wagner, William |
| Cook, Catherine | Kim, Daniel | Nosrat, Tara | Wang, Kevin |
| Czerniak, Anna | Kim, Justin | Ohmer, Dawn | Weidner, Creighton |
| Davis, Christina | Kim, Ue Sin | Parker, Kara | Wile, Douglas |
| Donnan, William | Kitterman, Matthew | Pence, Emily | Williams, Haley |
| Edwards, Laura | Klingen, J. T. | Perkins, Eric | Yeou, Sho Young |
| Fleishman, Travis | Knowles, Logan | Porter, Rachel | Zeitlin, Zachary |
| Foster, Lauren | Kuhn, Kristen | Roberts, Stephanie | |

Orchestra News



Things coming up for Orchestra...

After-School Rehearsals

Symphony will meet on TUESDAYS March 15, 22, and 29 and Philharmonic will meet on WEDNESDAYS March 16, 23, and 30 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm to prepare for their performances at the

UIL CLINIC AND PARTY!!!

FOR SYMPHONY AND PHILHARMONIC

Friday, March 18, 3:30-8:00 snacks, work with clinician, dinner, 8:00-9:30 party!!!! with BINGO, prizes, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?", basketball, war ball, and hula-hoop contest!!

The **Galveston Isle Festival** is **April 8.**

Our UIL Performances for Philharmonic will be **April 5, 6** and for Symphony **May 3, 4.**

Tribute to our Eighth Graders

Our **Spring Concert** will be on **May 5th** at the Coleman Coliseum at 7:30 pm. We are honoring our graduating 8th graders with a special slide show during our concert. Every 8th grader needs to turn in their favorite baby picture to their orchestra teacher to be used in the show. The picture will be scanned and returned to you immediately.

Beginners are having another party and get to enjoy the wonderful new ice skating rink at Memorial City Mall on **April 22.**

Orchestra News Continued

Solo and Ensemble Results 2005

On January 29 at Spring Woods Middle School, orchestra students participated in the SBISD Solo & Ensemble Festival. MMS is proud to announce that there were 114 *Division One* medals, 71 *Division Two* medals, and 23 *Outstanding Performance* medals.

In the Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras, 25 ensembles were entered. Of those 25, 12 were *Division One*, 10 were *Division Two*, and 3 were *Outstanding Performances*.

in all Orchestras, 109 solos were entered. Of those 109, 69 were *Division One*, 29 were *Division Two*, and 11 were *Outstanding Performances*.

Only one student received 2 Outstanding medals: Jieun Lim

The following students received 1 Outstanding medal and 1 Division One medal: Chris Bone, Anna Czerniak, Ronnie Hadi, Jasmine Kim, Hyeok Kwon, Marianne Landon, Jessie Lee, Fanyu Meng, Renan Orellana, Borna Vahabzadeh, Junji Wiener

The following students received 1 Outstanding medal and 1 Division Two medal: Gene Hu

The following students received 1 Outstanding medal: Martin Bae, Willy Elmore, Sabrina Hong, Jordan Lakner, Charlotte McClure, Anna Parkey, Jenna Schmidt, Matthew Trevitt

The following students received 3 Division One medals: Emily Jernigan, Alex Prather, Erin Sun

The following students received 2 Division One medals: Eve Ackerley, Hilarie Bellis, Matthew Benter, Michael Byerly, Robert Chuchla, Libby Cummings, Alison Hern, Emma Johnson, Drew Kremer, Susie Lee, Eva Littman, Jonathan Markovich, Ava Pacheco, Annie Scavone, Kathleen Wahl, Erica Wellen

The following students received 1 Division One medal: Mo Allen, Allie Arton, Hyun Bang, Dina Baassiri, Shawn Banon, Janet Bering, Christina Bettencourt, Henry Bettencourt, Alicija Bulota, Miki Calderon, Jonathan Chang, Yifan Chen, Sam Cho, Sarah Cho, Becca Crider, Emily Eckert, Taylor Evans, Aranza Gonzalez, Benjamin Harrison, Regan Jones, Rachel Koehn, Ryan Koehn, Jena Kim, Grace Lee, Se Hoon Lee, Alexandra Leggett, Andrew Leslie, Megan Livingston, Claire Mai, Phillip Mays, Batool Mehdi, Jin Min, Tara Nosrat, Emily Othold, Katherine Otis, Sadie Park, Allison Perlmutter, Kelsey Pipitone, Natalie Rothenberg, Alexa Russ, Jazzi Sadeghpour, Valentina Salazar, Ateen

Savadkoohi, Katie Schaper, Alex Schneider, Sydney Walker, Shelby Wilson, Adriana Yauw, Zach Zeitlin

The following students received 1 Division One medal and 1 Division Two rating: Payton Alexander, Jack Bentele, Melissa Dean, Kristin Fickert, Sam Hardaway, Jordan Hickerson, Jonathan Lo, Brett Mourglia, Dani Ostrowski, Gerard Reyes, Anoosh Saidi, Bill Vonderhaar

The following students received 2 Division Two ratings: Jerry Frei, Marielle Pichon, Lauren Roberts

The following students received 1 Division Two rating: Kim Boyd, Gatewood Brown, Chloe Davis, Taylor Greenhill, Sophia Hepp, Jon Khairandish, Barrett Montgomery, Jack Shreffler, Russell Valentine, Edward Yip

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE!!



Congratulations Anna



On January 22, **Anna Czerniak** performed a Violin Solo in Stude Hall at Rice University as part of the Houston Young Artist's Concert. Every year a competition between outstanding young musicians is held in Houston. MMS is proud to announce that out of over 300 applicants, Anna was awarded FIRST PRIZE! She represented our school with such

poise and professionalism.

CONGRATUALTIONS ANNA!! We look forward to hearing you perform again!

Meet The Coaches Nights

High School "Meet the Coaches" Night (for incoming freshman)

Memorial High School

Wednesday, May 4th 7:00 MHS Gym

Questions: **Barbie Bogart** 713-984-9124

Stratford High School

Monday, May 2nd 7:00 Westchester Gym

Questions: **Mark & Lynn Edwards** 713-417-1068

Meet the Girls' MMS Coaches

WHEN: March 31, 2005

WHERE: MMS Gym

TIME: 6:30-7:30 PM

WHY: Get important information about the 2005-2006 Girls' Athletic Program

WHO: Any current 6th or 7th grade parent whose daughter is interested in being in Athletics

MMS Mathematics Club

The MMS mathematics club is recruiting students for next year. In addition to participating in mathematics competitions, club activities include playing chess, building Mars rovers, and playing a stock market game. Interested students should contact their mathematics teacher or the club sponsor, Maurice Stadler.

The benefits of joining the club are wonderfully expressed in a speech given by Benjamin Fang, a former Holub Middle School "mathlete," at last month's MathCounts competition. Here are excerpts from the speech:

As an alumnus of MathCounts, I would like to talk briefly about not only my own MathCounts experience but also how rewarding that experience has been and just how significantly MathCounts has impacted my own career development to date.

My involvement with MathCounts started when I was a seventh grader. Although it has been exactly thirteen years since I last competed in MathCounts, I can still remember the sense of excitement and the competitive spirit to perform at my highest potential. In eighth grade, our school placed second in the Houston-area competition and made it to the state-level, where I placed third in the state as an individual. That year, I went on to represent the state of Texas at the National MathCounts Competition in Washington DC, an eye-opening experience to say the least.

But you don't have to make it to state or nationals to have had a truly rewarding MathCounts experience. In a way, all of you, through your involvement in MathCounts alone, have already gained something extremely valuable to your success in school and beyond. An eagerness to learn—that at least in my case—allowed me to excel as a student throughout high school. I had learned from this invaluable experience how to apply myself more fully and how to seek out opportunities to be constantly challenged. This proactive stance towards learning coupled with the improved test-taking ability that MathCounts helped me to develop all led to a much stronger application when it came time to apply to college. In the end, several prestigious schools including Rice University, Caltech, and MIT accepted me. Undoubtedly, my MathCounts experience directly influenced my success in getting into some of the most competitive universities in the country.

However, the benefits of my participation in MathCounts do not stop merely with academic accomplishments. For example, creative problem solving is something I use everyday in the workplace. As a software developer for JPMorgan Chase, one of the largest financial institutions in the world, I am part of a team of engineers and business analysts in charge of building software applications used by countless investment banking employees. These computer systems require billions of lines of code to program, process millions of transactions a day, and run on thousands of computer servers located around the world. Clearly, designing and maintaining these systems is a very challenging job. But with the creative problem-solving skills that I first learned from MathCounts, I am confident that given any problem, I can approach it in an effective way and eventually find a solution.

Band News

The MMS band has had a wonderful semester so far and we are looking forward to what is yet to come! We started off February with Solo and Ensemble competitions, and our students were very successful. The majority of our band students came back with Division 1 Gold medals on their solos. We could not have been more proud of our students. Students receiving division one medals were:

Steven Archer, Cole Jodon, Ayaka Yakushiji, Will Harrison, Kate McHolick, Brian Smith, Amy Nelson, Caroline Dawson, Kelareh Seif, Eilise Evans, The Evans Flute Trio, Jonathan Caudle, Ariel Chenet, Chloe Verschuren, Kevin Koo, Brent Schneider, Greer Hippard, Stephen Spilker, Teddy Aitken, Uesin Kim, Kevin Lake, The Bates Saxophone Ensemble, Kyle Belleville, Haley Graham, Atul Gupta, Michael Toll, Owen Guldner, Jason Koeller, Devon Kotch, Brittany McBee, Ryan King, Ken Kageyama, Patrick Topp, Cameron Sims, Rebecca Purvis, Stephen Pusser, Natalie Wright, Kevin Wang, Samuel Redding, Steven Gonzalez, and Hannah Dunn.

Some students exceed the judges expectations and have a near perfect performance. These students receive the honor of receiving an OP medal; which stands for outstanding performance. Memorial Middle School was proud to have several recipients of this honor. Students who received the OP medal were:

Cameron Schleicher, Ben Kirchofer, John Han, Phillip Bauch, Ann Touchstone, Matt Cragg, Joey Hays, Meredith Lankford, John David Barnes, Tyler Clayton, Kristen Simmons, Jon Rodiek, Brian Kim, Teddy Yoo, Jenny Herzberg, Grace Kim, Lauren O'Malley, Marshall Holland, Simmon Kim, and Aaron Croley.

Congratulations to all of our students on a job well done!!

We also had a 5th grade band drive on February 16th and 17th. We were very excited to have several 5th graders come and try out instruments. All of the students who auditioned seemed very excited and boy are we excited to have them in our program next year.

The beginners have completed one of their major events this semester. This was their Solo and Ensemble Contest, which was held Wednesday, February 23rd here at Memorial Middle School. Students prepared a solo of their choice such as; The Pirates of the Carribean, Beauty and the Beast and The Pink Panther. They were also given the opportunity to prepare and ensemble of their choice with whomever they wanted.

Ensembles could consist of any instrument grouping and could have anywhere from two to four members. Examples of Ensembles that were performed were James Bond, Celebration, and English Ballad. The students were very successful and we could not be more proud of our beginning students.

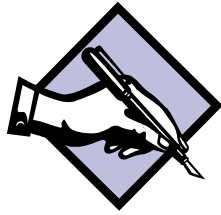
The next big event for the beginners will be a festival for them in Katy. The date has not yet been set, but the beginning band will get to travel to Katy and compete for a rating and critique. This will be the beginner's first experience of a group effort to achieve success, and also their first concert in front of a large audience. This is a great opportunity for them to get a taste of what is in store for them next year.

The next big event for our Concert and Symphonic Bands is our Pre-UIL competition on **March 17th**. Memorial Middle School Bands will be traveling to Northbrook High School to play their contest music for various judges. The district will bring in judges to critique the ensembles and help them be better prepared for our UIL competitions that these groups will perform in later on. The Concert band will perform at UIL on **April 1st or 2nd**, and the Symphonic band will perform on either **April 8th or 9th**. Both groups are working very hard to prepare their music so that they may carry out the tradition of success that Memorial Middle is so proud of.

We have several concerts coming up that everyone should be planning for. The first concert will be **May 13th** in our auditorium. It is our annual "Spring Concert." This concert will feature the beginner ensemble, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band. **May 15th** will be a concert combining the band, orchestra, choir and theatre departments. It will be a USO written by our own Ms. Featherston. We are very excited to be participating in this event with all of the other groups. And finally, **May 17th** will be the "Spring Jazz Band Concert," featuring the MMS and MHS jazz bands. This concert will also be held in our auditorium.

And lastly, we will begin looking forward to our Splashtown trip in May. From Charter Busses to Swim Trunks, we will begin finalizing details and agendas. We hope that you had a wonderful year and we will keep you posted on our events this semester.

The Library has News !



Track Calendar of Meets

- March 18th MHS
 - March 23th Alief Crump
 - March 30th MHS
 - April 4th - 7th District Meet, MHS
- All Meets begin at 5:00. Athletes may leave with parent after completing their last event. Coaches have the required sign out forms

We are very excited about our upcoming author visit with Sherry Garland. She has written many popular young adult books, such as *Shadow of the Dragon*, *Song of the Buffalo Boy*, *A Line in the Sand* to name a few. Ms. Garland is scheduled to visit classes in the Library on **April 27th**.

Summer Reading Book Fair - will be held **May 5 - May 11**.

Dedicate or donate a book. Visit our website for a list of books that are available for dedication or donation. Just follow the link to Memorial Middle School Library & click on "Dedicate a book."

(<http://mmsweb.springbranchisd.com/rodgers/default.htm>)

Fill in & mail the form below with check payable to SBISD.

(E-mail the librarian if you have questions -

Karen Rodgers - rodgersk@springbranchisd.com)

...cut out & return to MMS Library

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

I would like to donate the following title: _____

Please attach a check to this order made payable to SBISD & send to MMS,
Attn: Karen Rodgers, Librarian.

Dedicate this books as follows:

(Ex. "In Memory of John Smith")

Please attach a check to this order made payable to SBISD &
send to MMS, Attn: Karen Rodgers, Librarian.

Lady Eagles Basketball

7th Grade Basketball

Both of the girls 7th grade MMS basketball teams had extremely successful seasons and have a great deal to be proud of!

The B team earned top honors concluding their season without a single loss. Adding to their overall record of 11-0 and the District Champion title, the B team won first place in the regular season tournament as well as earning first place in the SBISD District Tournament. Team members were **Rachel Bett, Sarah Bozyk, Jordan Kindred, Jessica Lake, Shannon McCloskey, Katie Murski, Tracy Ostrofsky, Erin Pence, Madeline Roeder, Jenny Shaw, Sydney Sherman, and Lizzie Wild**

The A team concluded their season with an overall record of 9-3 and a district record of 6-1 finishing 2nd in district play. The A team made it to the SBISD District Tournament Finals and played the best basketball they had played all year. Although they came up one point short in the championship game they learned a great life lesson...wins and losses do not measure your success! Team members were **Emily Brickhouse, Allie Clark, Laura Dunn, Emma Johnson, Nicole Lioliou, Mary Ellen Luck, Stephanie Marett, Taylor Miller, Ali Moses, Laura Murray, Anna Perry, Ashleigh Rogers, Kelli Tomlinson, Paige Warner, and Kathryn West**

Congratulations to both teams on their successful seasons.

Coach Nella is very proud of all of you!

8th Grade Basketball

Here at Memorial Middle School the Athletic tradition for winning goes back several decades. Our society looks at a successful season by the number of wins versus the number of losses. Success is measured by the amount of learning that goes on off the court as well as on the court. The eighth grade A team made great strides during the last half of the season by coming together as a unit to build on their basketball knowledge. Although the numbers did not fall where we would have liked for them too, every girl displayed a desire to improve and strive for personal achievements. Coach Moore would like to commend every Lady Eagle for their gutsy display of talent, for overcoming barriers, and challenging me to be a better coach. Good luck in the future, and may your high school years be everything you have ever dreamed of.

Team members for the 2004-2005 Lady Eagles: **Rebekah Carl, Paige DeLouche, Laura Edwards, Kathryn Eiser, Corey Gross, Elizabeth Harvey, Beth Herlin, Megan Livingston, Kara Parker, Emily Pence, Katie Satterwhite, Katie Schreiber, Lexi Silverman, and Megan Tronzo.**

A special thanks goes to Mr. Pence for keeping the scorebook this year!

The eight grade B team had a very successful year placing 2nd in District play and 3rd in the district tournament. The girls improved their basketball skills and learned many life skills throughout the season. Team members of the 2004-2005 Lady Eagles was **Anne Freer, Ayaka Yakushiji, Tara Nosrat, Grace Lee, Abbie McKenzie, Annie McKenzie, Hannah Bass, Allie Chirich, Joan Pappas, Samantha Evans, Elizabeth Morris, Lauren Kutinac, Dawn Ohmer and Christine O'Rourke.**

Boys Basketball Eagles Soar in 2004-2005 Season

Once again the MMS Eagles boys basketball teams claimed best status in the district by winning three out of four district titles. The four teams won a combined 37 games (23-1 in district play) and placed all four teams in the end of season tournament finals, winning three championships.

In the 7th grade, the B-team took top honors with an impressive 10-1 record (6-0) to claim both the regular season and district tournament titles. The 7th grade A-team ended a successful season by finishing 2nd in district play (5-1) and runner-up in the end of season

tournament, leading to a 9-3 overall record.

On the 8th grade level, The A-team claimed its second straight district title (6-0) as well as two in a row for the season tournament with a stellar 9-2 season record. The B-team grabbed its 11th district title in 13 years and second straight tournament title in route to a 9-2 season (6-0 in district play).

All of the coaches would like to thank the hard work and effort of all teams this year and to congratulate the players for another successful basketball season. Great Job Eagles!

8th Grade Peer Group

8th Grade Peer Group Meeting

Friday, April 8th

11:30 a.m. in the MMS Library

Brown Bag Lunch

Desserts Provided

Panel discussion with MHS and SHS students about what our eighth graders can expect in high school and tips on preparing for ninth grade.

7th Grade Peer Group

7th Grade Peer Group Meeting

Thursday, April 21

11:30 a.m. in the MMS Library

8th grade dance discussion and chat

Please bring a Brown Bag Lunch!

Questions please contact Chairpersons:
Denise Roeder, Beth Shaw, Wendy Moreland

6th Grade Peer Group

Attention All Sixth Grade Parents

Peer Group Meeting - April 7, 2005

12:00 in the MMS Library

Come meet new friends and hear the counselor, principal and coaches talk about electives for 7th grade.

A lasagna lunch will be served and we are looking for some volunteers to help with the cooking. Please email **Diane Lund** (dlund1@houston.rr.com) or **Mollie Delouche** (molliedelouche@houston.rr.com) if you can help.

This will be our last peer group meeting of the year so make plans to attend. You won't want to miss it!

*Next newsletter article deadline is
April 26, 2005*

*Please e-mail articles to Gina Daggett
gdaggett@houston.rr.com
Label & Sort - May 6th*



Upcoming Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 25 | Good Friday Holiday |
| March 28 | Teacher In-Service / Student Holiday |
| March 30 | Pete Hinojosa, 8:30-10:00 a.m., library, "The Facets of Life" |
| March 31 | MMS Girls' Athletics Meet the Coaches, 6:30-7:00, MMS Gym |
| April 6 | 8 th Grade Party Skit & Invitation Distribution during Activity |
| April 7 | 6 th Grade Peer Group, noon in the library |
| April 8 | 8 th Grade Peer Group, 11:30 a.m. in the library |
| April 13 | Teacher Appreciation Luncheon |
| April 14 | PTA Board Meeting, light lunch served at noon, location TBA |
| April 15 | End 5 th Six Weeks |
| April 19 | TAKS Math (Grades 6, 7, 8) |
| April 20 | TAKS Reading (Grades 6, 7, 8) |
| April 21 | TAKS Social Studies (Grade 8) 7 th Grade Peer Group, 11:30 in the library |
| April 22 | International Club Luncheon |
| April 24 | Passover |
| April 25 | Cultural Arts Programs - 7 th & 8 th grade |
| April 26 | Newsletter Deadline |
| April 27 | Pete Hinojosa, 8:30-10:00 a.m., library, "The Facets of Life" |
| April 28 | Cultural Arts Program - 6 th grade |
| April 30 | Run for the Arts, 8:00 a.m. at Memorial City Mall |
| May 2 | Stratford High School Meet the Coaches, 7:00 Westchester Gym |
| May 4 | Memorial High School Meet the Coaches, 7:00 Memorial Gym |
| May 6 | Label & Sort Newsletter, 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria |
| | Progress Reports |
| May 7 | 8 th Grade Party, 8-11 p.m., MS cafeteria |
| May 12 | Old Board / New Board Coffee, 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria |

8th Grade Party Update

This is the last MMS newsletter before the big DANCE/PARTY scheduled for May 7, 2005 from 8:00 - 11:00 p.m.!! PLEASE READ ALL OF THE RELATED ARTICLES - you don't want to miss a thing!

Thanks to those who came to the last planning meeting on February 16, 2005. We really appreciate everyone who has signed up to work to make this night very special and memorable for our 8th graders.

Mari Graham and **Carolyn Duncan** have been hard at work designing a plan to convert the cafeteria into an awesome party place. It takes a lot of man (and woman) power to pull this off, so please plan to join us after school on May 6 and all day May 7 to lend a helping hand.

BASIC INFORMATION: Only MMS 8th grade students may attend. No one will be admitted after 9:00 p.m. No one may leave and return. Dates are discouraged. The party is free - absolutely NO limousines. Suggested Attire: girls wear party dresses (long or short) and boys wear a coat and tie.

MARC NATHAN PHOTOGRAPHY will be taking pictures at the party. There will be two photographers taking candid "party pics" as well as posed pictures during the evening. There is no need to bring any money to the party as all of the photographs will be available online after the event. We will provide you with their website (and password) information at our April mailing.

REFRESHMENTS: **Kelly Tronzo** will ensure the partygoers have snacks and drinks, but if you would like to bring cookies, brownies, rice krispie treats, small cans of soda or small bottles of water it would be appreciated. Additionally, if you would like to help serve at the party, please contact Kelly at (713) 467-6197 or Kelly-Tronzo@sbcglobal.net.

INVITATIONS: We will send a special invitation to the party home with your 8th grader on April 6. This is the day of the skit that will be held during the kids' activity period between 1:19 - 1:47 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend. The theme of the party will be announced at this time.

Please look for related articles (in this newsletter) regarding the 8th grade DVD, party chairmen and underwriters. Last minute party details will be mailed to you mid-April.

The dance/party is going to be a BLAST and an awesome celebration of your 8th grader's incredible journey through MMS. Thank you for your support!

Mary Roberts (713) 468-6961 professionalpen@sbcglobal.net

Julie Silverman (713) 468-0938 JLS6860@aol.com

8th Grade Party Underwriting

We want to thank these additional families for their generous contributions to the Eighth Grade Dance:

The Adams Family, The Clark Family, The Delouche Family, The Donnan Family, The Eiser Family, The Graves Family, The Grenader Family, The Hammond Family, The Jenkins Family, The Johnson Family, The Kendrick Family, The Little Family, The Murray Family, The Perkins Family, The Perlmutter Family, The Robert Family, The Silverman Family, The Withers Family,

Thank you, Nancy Devlin, Mary Roberts, Julie Silverman

8th Grade Video

Attention 8th Grade Parents!!

WE NEED PHOTOS FOR THE 8TH GRADE DVD!

We need pictures of your 8th grade student for the DVD that will be made to commemorate our childrens' middle school years. This video/DVD will be shown continuously during the 8th grade party, and there will be footage of the party added to it. You will have the opportunity to order a DVD of this special memento (more information to come).

START LOOKING THROUGH YOUR PHOTOS NOW!! Send your pictures to school in a baggie or envelope marked "8th grade DVD". We are requesting three pictures of your 8th grader: For instance, one adorable baby picture, one of their elementary years and one current photo. **BE SURE TO** write you child's name on the back of **each photo (or they won't be returned to you)**. Pictures no larger than 4X6 (horizontal) work best.

We also need group pictures of MMS extra-curricular activities, such as school parties and clubs, choir, orchestra, band, plays, talent show, and athletics. Please make sure these photos are of MMS 8th graders. Label these photos with an "E" to distinguish them from the 3 photos for your child. We also are taking **group** shots of the elementary years, as long as the children in the photo currently attend MMS.

Disclaimer: (We may not be able to use all of these photos in the video). Also, *Please, no weapons in any photos or they cannot be used in the DVD!

These pictures will be collected until March 14 - 18, 2005, so if you want your child to be in the DVD, send in your pictures! **If you want your photos returned, you must label each one.**

If you have any questions, please call **Colleen First (713-461-1497)** or **Patty Busmire (713-532-2333)**.

Order 8th Grade DVD

Order your copy of the 8th Grade DVD now!

The DVD includes photographs turned in by each student all set to cool music; the invitation presentation skit; Faculty vs. students basketball game; and footage of the 8th grade party!! (over an hour long)

This is a special keepsake that is guaranteed to bring laughter and memories for years to come!

Send this form with a check made out to MMS PTA to the school office (put in the DVD photo collection box). **DVDs ordered before April 22 are \$25.** After that, they will be sold for \$30.

DVDs will be delivered to Activity Classes before school is out.

Student Name _____

Activity Teacher _____

of DVDs _____ Total Paid _____

Each DVD is \$25.00.

Checks payable to MMS PTA

Running for the Arts

Running for the Arts

April 30 8:00 am

Memorial City Mall

Dust off those running shoes and get ready to join hundreds of students and their families in the annual Spring Branch Education Foundation's Running for the Arts! It is a terrific way to celebrate fitness and Houston's cultural arts. The event will include a 5k walk/run, refreshments, live music and drawings for fabulous prizes. Here at MMS, in the weeks leading up to the race, we will have our own prize drawings from your entry forms. Forms will be available all over campus, so be sure and look for them, take them home and have everyone in your family complete one (more entries = more chances to win). MMS always has lots of participants and winners, so, let's keep up the tradition of excellence.

Call **Liane Phillips** 713-784-3204 or **Laura Riddle** 713-785-1812 for more information

Teacher Appreciation

Thanks to the following people who helped with the Valentines' (Best Ever!) Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on February 9: **Faye Wyatt** (6th), **Stacy Cheesman** (6th), **Joanne Rucker** (6th), **Leslie Nirider** (6th), **Kim Hillin** (6th), **Allison Whitmire** (6th), **Mary Beth Bourgeois** (7th), **Linda Linderman** (7th), **Susan Fickert** (7th), **Kari Krause** (7th), **Emma Kirchhofer** (7th), **Sandy Norris** (7th), **Karen Steininger** (7th), **Kathy Danna** (7th), **Holli Cortelyou** (8th), **Nancy Devlin** (6th & 8th), **Betty Bradshaw** (8th), **Lori Jackson** (8th), **Allison Hendrickson** (8th), **Andrea Hatridge** (8th), and **Becky Choice** (8th)

Co-Chairs: **Sheree Burkett** (8th) and **Cynthia Kuhn** (8th)

Young Inventors Showcase of Houston

Young Inventors Showcase of Houston

April 23 will be the 18th annual Young Inventors Showcase of Houston. Last year a SBISD student won the grand prize and several placed in their own grade level! Currently 6 previous winners are being exhibited in the Children's Museum in the new Invention Convention exhibit. If you are a student from kindergarten through eighth grade and would like to solve a problem by making your own invention, contact Iris Story 713-690-1108 or e-mail OMERS5@aol.com. The Showcase is free, including lunch, entertainment and prizes. Flyers and registration forms are also available at www.inventors.org.

Odyssey of the Mind

Spring Branch ISD has 19 Odyssey of the Mind teams competing in Region Finals on March 12, 2005. Please bring your own perspective '05-'06 team members and cheer our district teams on to State finals. Region will be at Paul Revere M.S. on 10502 Briarforest off Beltway 8 south from 9:00-4:00. Come and go as you please. Odyssey is for kindergarten through college. Come out and see what creativity is all about!. Information: Iris Story-Council of PTAs Odyssey Representative.

Camp Invention

Camp Invention will be hosted on June 6-10 at Terrace Elementary. For information on early registration discounts visit the web at campinvention.org or contact Iris Story 713-690-1108 or e-mail Omers5@aol.com

Write-a-Check Update



Gold Eagles

The Alan Patton Family

Bronze Eagles

Mollie & Michael Delouche

Tucker & Carrie Graves

Gavin Wiggins and Family

Eagles

James Jackson Family

The Toll Family

Those checks just keep rolling in! **As of March 1, 2005, 315 families have responded for a total of \$72,840!** AWESOME!! Thanks to these families who have donated since the last newsletter:

Please make checks payable to **MMS PTA.**

Mail the form and your check to: MMS Write-A-Check

Mail the form and your check to: MMS Write-A-Check

c/o Sheri Lathrop

107 Lakeside Oaks Dr.

Houston, TX 77042

YES! We want to support Memorial Middle School!

Our family would like to make a contribution of \$_____.

Many employers have matching programs for charitable contributions. Please ask your company benefits department for details.

Name_____

Address_____

Zip_____

Please tell us how you want your contributions listed (e.g. The Doe Family, The John Doe Family, Jane & John Doe, etc.) or tell us if you prefer not to be listed:

Your contribution is tax deductible. A receipt will be mailed to you. Thank you for your generous contribution. (Please mark your envelope "Write A Check")

The Messenger

Editor: Gina Daggett

Distribution: Catherine Bryd/Randa Jackson

Next Newsletter Deadline:

April 26, 2005




Enjoy the nice springtime
weather

Memorial Middle School

Spring Branch Independent School District
12550 Vindon
Houston, Texas 77024

| |
|------------------------|
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